

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, EINV, CA, UR  
SUBJ: RANDOM NOTES ON QUEBEC SITUATION

1. NEW FRENCH REP TO ICAO, JEAN DE LA GRANDVILLE, A CAREER  
AMBASSADOR, TOLD CG THAT HE "AND ALL EUROPEANS" ARE SERIOUSLY  
CONCERNED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR USSR EFFORTS EXPLOIT RECENT QUEBEC  
ELECTION RESULTS TO WEAKEN IF NOT DESTROY CANADA. "WE NEED A  
STRONG CANADA. I HAVE DEALT WITH THE KGB FOR ENOUGH YEARS TO  
KNOW THAT THEY WILL BE (IF THEY ARE NOT ALREADY) HERE FOMENTING  
TROUBLE AMONG THE EXTREMISTS." STATEMENT WAS MADE IN CONVERSA-  
TION CENTERED ON TERRORISM AND IN RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS COMMENT  
BY US CG THAT, ALTHOUGH INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM KNOWS NO LOCUS,  
THERE DID NOT NOW APPEAR TO BE ANY REASON TO FEAR INDIGENOUS  
TERRORISM HERE. HE DISAGREED VIGOROUSLY.

2. MICHEL BELANGER, IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, SAYS PIERRE MAROIS  
WOULD BE LEVESQUE'S SUCCESSOR IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO LATTER "IN  
NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS." SAYS HE GOT THIS FROM CLAUDE AND JACQUES-  
YVAN MORIN. RATIONALE IS THAT THE "OBVIOUS" CANDIDATES, BY THEIR  
OWN ADMISSION, HAVE ABOUT EQUAL LEVELS OF POWER AND INFLUENCE  
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AND SELECTION OF ANY WOULD DAMAGE PARTY SOLIDARITY, WHICH THEY WISH  
TO AVOID. BOTH MORINS FALL IN THE "OBVIOUS" CATEGORY.

3. JOHN MURPHY, PRESIDENT OF MERCANTILE BANK (A CITIBANK  
SUBSIDIARY), TELLS US HE ATTENDED LAST WEEK'S DINNER OF FORTY  
PROMINENT BUSINESSMEN WITH LEVESQUE (SPONSORED BY WOOD GUNDY)

AND EXPECTS LEVESQUE TO SAY SAME THINGS IN NEW YORK NEXT MONTH AS ON THAT OCCASION. "IF YOU CAME HERE THINKING I WOULD SOFT-PEDDLE INDEPENDENCE, YOU WERE WRONG. WE ARE COMMITTED TO THAT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CHANGES CREATES UNCERTAINTY AND VAST CHANGES CREATE VAST UNCERTAINTIES. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND WHY SOME OF YOU MAY BE THINKING ABOUT POSTPONING NEW INVESTMENTS IN A CLIMATE OF UNCERTAINTY. THAT IS A PRUDENT BUSINESS DECISION. BUT WE ARE COMMITTED AND, IF THAT IS THE PRICE WE HAVE TO PAY, WE'LL PAY IT AND SURVIVE." ALL REPORTEDLY SAID TEMPERATELY, NOT PROVOKINGLY. (COMMENT: NO MATTER HOW SOOTHINGLY STATED, THAT STRIKES US AS ODD MESSAGE FROM ONE WHOSE GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY WILL NEED BORROW ONE BILLION ON OWN ACCOUNT, PLUS HYDRO-QUEBEC NEED FOR TWO BILLION, IN CALENDAR 1977.) MICHEL BELANGER, PRESIDENT OF PROVINCIAL BANK OF CANADA, CONFIRMS LEVESQUE SAID ALL OF ABOVE BUT FEELS IT MORE IMPORTANT THAT HE ALSO "PROMISED" THAT THERE WOULD BE ONLY ONE REFERENDUM AND IF IT LOST, SO BE IT. THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO GOVERN UNTIL FOLLOWING ELECTION AND TAKE THEIR CHANCES AT THE POLLS. BELANGER ALSO SAYS REPORTED NEED FOR A BILLION NEXT YEAR IS MISLEADING, AS ABOUT 800 MILLION ALREADY IN THE WORKS IF NOT IN HAND.

4. GOQ HONEYMOON WITH PRESS MAY BE ENDING SOONER THAN EXPECTED. PQ RESPONSE TO LANGUAGE OF EDUCATION ISSUE SATISFIES NO ONE AND REFLECTS CERTAIN GOQ DISARRAY. (SEE QUEBEC'S 389, PARA 4.) CLAUDE RYAN TOLD US DEC. 13 THAT HE HAD HAD TWO-HOUR TALK WITH ONE OF INNER CABINET ON SUNDAY AND "THEY ARE REALLY HAVING DIFFICULTIES LEARNING TO WORK WITH EACH OTHER. ONE OF THE THINGS KEEPING THEM FROM ANNOUNCING AN EDUCATION PROGRAM IS THAT THEY CAN'T REACH A CONSENSUS." "SOLUTION" ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY OF HAVING SOME 200 CHILDREN TAKE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTS AGAIN HAS RILED EVERYONE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW INSISTENCE DURING CAMPAIGN THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TESTS WOULD BE ABOLISHED. JACQUES-YVAN MORIN'S CLAIM THAT THEY HAVE NOT HAD TIME TO AMEND BILL 22 AND THUS MUST FOLLOW IT FOR TIME BEING MAY BE LEGALISTICALLY PURE BUT HAS EVOKED CONSIDERABLE EDITORIAL SCORN IN LE DEVOIR AND OTHER PAPERS.

5. MEDIA AND BUSINESS LEADERS ALSO EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT FUTURE ENGLISH AND AMERICAN SCHOOL-AGE IMMIGRANTS BEING FORCED INTO FRANCOPHONE EDUCATIONAL STREAM. (NATIVE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH FROM OTHER PARTS OF CANADA WILL CONTINUE RECEIVE EDUCATION IN ENGLISH.) FEAR IS THAT THIS WILL DISRUPT RECRUITMENT OF NEEDED EXECUTIVES AND OTHER SPECIALISTS. ON ANOTHER LANGUAGE FRONT, CURRENT FLAP ABOUT LEVESQUE'S PILOT HAVING USED FRENCH IN COMMUNICATING WITH MONTREAL'S DORVAL AIRPORT HAS PROMPTED CARTOON OF CONTROL TOWER AT KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL AND CONTROLLER ON TELEPHONE SAYING "MR. LEVESQUE? REGARDING YOUR PROPOSED TRIP TO NEW YORK -- MAY WE SUGGEST GREYHOUND BUS?"

6. CONSONANT WITH ALL-FRENCH THRONE SPEECH, PARLIAMENTARY

ASSISTANT TO MIN. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, MNA DENIS VAUGEOIS OF TROIS-RIVIERES, EXTENDED GREETINGS OF LEVESQUE AND MIN. MORIN SOLELY IN FRENCH TO CONSULAR CORPS AT ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER. HE WAS FOLLOWED AT PODIUM BY MAYOR JEAN DRAPEAU, WHO BEGAN IN FRENCH AND THEN NOTED (STILL IN FRENCH) THAT "AS ENGLISH IS NO LONGER A LANGUAGE TO BE USED, I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD SPEAK AMERICAN." (IT COULDN'T BE SEEN IF VAUGEOIS JOINED IN THE LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE, BUT EVERYONE ELSE AT CG'S TABLE WAS FRENCH-CANADIAN AND THEY ALL ROARED.) THE REST OF THE MAYOR'S REMARKS WERE IN "AMERICAN".

7. REACTION OF MONTREAL'S FRANCOPHONE AND ANGLOPHONE MEDIA TO MEETING OF PRIME MINISTERS HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY SIMILAR. MEETING WAS SEEN AS PROVING NEED FOR FURTHER MODIFICATIONS IN CANADA'S FEDERAL STRUCTURE, BUT AS ACCOMPLISHING ABOUT ALL THAT COULD REASONABLE HAVE BEEN EXPECTED -- I.E., A COMPROMISE, WHICH IS WHAT ONE EXPECTS IN NEGOTIATIONS, WITH PROVINCES COMING OUT FAIRLY WELL WITH RESPECT TO THEIR FINANCIAL DEMANDS. LEVESQUE'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REACTION WAS EXPECTED, BUT CLAUDE RYAN OF LE DEVOIR NOTED THAT LEVESQUE COULD OVERPLAY HIS HAND, SINCE THE MORE LEVESQUE INSISTS THAT NO SOLUTION IS POSSIBLE UNDER FEDERAL SYSTEM, THE MORE UNCERTAIN AND THEREFORE UNSTABLE QUEBEC'S ECONOMY WILL BECOME. THUS, TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION IN QUEBEC, LEVESQUE MIGHT BE FORCED TO CALL REFERENDUM EARLIER THAN HE WISHES AND BEFORE HE HAS HAD ADEQUATE TIME TO PREPARE THE PEOPLE. AS TO RESULTS OF RECENT MEETINGS, RADIO CANADA'S FRANCOPHONE CHANNEL 2 CONCLUDED THAT QUEBEC WOULD HAVE COME OUT THE SAME HAD BOURASSA AND GARNEAU BEEN THE PROVINCE'S REPRESENTATIVES, RATHER THAN LEVESQUE AND PARIZEAU.  
HARPER

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